NEVADA DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Steve Sisolak, *Governor*
James R. Lawrence, *Acting Director*
Greg Lovato, *Administrator*

November 9, 2022

Jay A. Steinberg
Nevada Environmental Response Trust
35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 690
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: **Tronox LLC (TRX) Facility**
Nevada Environmental Response Trust (Trust) Property
NDEP Facility ID #H-000539
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) Response to: *Data Validation Summary Report and Electronic Data Deliverable for Phase 3 Remedial Investigation Modification No. 10, Rev 1*

Dated: October 24, 2022

Dear Mr. Steinberg,

The NDEP has received and reviewed the Trust's above-identified Deliverable and provides comments below. A revised Deliverable should be submitted by **01/10/2023** based on the comments. The Trust should additionally provide an annotated response-to-comments letter as part of the revised Deliverable.

NDEP's comments: Several SDGs report a cooler temperature outside of acceptance limit with no explanation either in the SDG or DVSR for the exceedance. When reviewing the COCs there are a series of temperatures recorded that are within acceptance limit. Then there is a single entry of a cooler temperature that is outside the acceptance limit. The laboratory lists all the recorded temperatures in the Job Narrative. Looking at traceability, is there a sample inventory to know which samples were placed in each cooler? From information provided, there is no way to tell which samples were preserved properly and is totally dependent on the lab to identify samples that are received outside required cooler temperature acceptance criteria.

For SDG 550-168578-1, the following cooler temperatures were recorded; 0.9, 2.4, 3.3, 4.4, 5.0, 13.9 and 17.2 oC. The Job Narrative indicates that "All perchlorate containers were received at 13.9 C. The unpreserved containers for 314.0 was also received at 13.9 C for sample 3 thru 6, and 8 thru 10." There is no discussion in the DVSR regarding this outlier. Why weren't the samples in the cooler received at 17.2 C included in the Job Narrative as well?

NERT Response: The single high cooler temperature reading listed on the COC is the temperature recorded at the time of drop-off at the laboratory service center in Las Vegas,

not the temperature recorded at the time of receipt at the laboratory. When the samples are received at the service center, they have generally not had sufficient time to cool to below 6 degrees C. The samples are repacked with wet ice and shipped overnight to the laboratory, where the temperature of each cooler is measured. The laboratory's procedure is to list any individual bottles within coolers received above 6 degrees C in the case narrative and/or the login sample receipt checklist. Unless individual bottles are specifically noted by the laboratory, all sample bottles were received at the laboratory preserved on ice and at less than 6 degrees C. The analytical laboratory is revising their procedures so that the case narratives will not list temperatures measured at the service center in the future.

The case narrative for SDG-168578-1 should have stated "All chlorate containers were received at 13.9 C. The unpreserved containers for 314.0 was also received at 13.9 C for sample 3 thru 6, and 8 thru 10." This is consistent with the documentation on the COC. Temperature preservation is not required for perchlorate and chlorate by Methods 314.0 and 300.1; therefore, the temperature exceedance above 6 degrees C was not discussed in the DVSR, and no data were qualified. The temperature reading at 17.2 degrees C for this SDG is the reading recorded at the time of drop-off at the laboratory service center and not representative of the temperature of the samples when they were received at the laboratory. The service center measured temperature is not used to assess sample temperature preservation; therefore, it is not discussed in the case narrative as a receipt exception or discussed in the DVSR.

No changes have been made to the DVSR.

NDEP Response: The explanation for the elevated cooler temperature at the time of drop-off at the laboratory service center (17.2 degrees C), that the measured temperature at the service center is not representative of the sample temperature and not used to assess sample preservation, is adequate. The explanation of the elevated temperature received by the laboratory needs to be included in the DVSR. Since the laboratory case narrative does not provide sufficient clarity and the details noted are in error, the DVSR must be revised to provide this clarity. The laboratory reported all samples for the respective cooler as being outside acceptable temperature range without regard to sample fraction (TDS, chlorate, or perchlorate).

Please contact the undersigned with any questions at wdong@ndep.nv.gov or 702-668-3929.

Sincerely,

Dong Weiquan

Weiquan Dong, P.E.
Bureau of Industrial Site Cleanup
NDEP-Las Vegas City Office

WD:cp

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